



Stairway Leading To The Loggia

# The Wesleyan Alumnae

May

1940

WESLEYAN COLLEGE L  
MACON, GA.





JAMES HYDE PORTER

whose gift of \$150,000 brings to an end the Campaign for the Repurchase  
*of Wesleyan College*



# THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

Volume XVI

MAY, 1940

Number 2

## Porter Gift Finishes Campaign

Never again will you have to hear about the "bonded indebtedness" of Wesleyan! Never again a "campaign to repurchase the Wesleyan properties".

The debt is a thing of the past; the campaign for \$600,000 is successful; Wesleyan faces the future entirely free of the financial burden which has crippled her for the past twelve years.

Now, indeed, will the One Hundredth Anniversary Commencement be a time for praise and thanksgiving!

### The Generosity of One Man

Last fall the largest single gift to the campaign was announced—\$100,000 from James H. Porter of Macon, given in memory of his wife, Olive Swann Porter.

Inspired by this gift, other friends responded to Wesleyan's appeal, and the November Alumnae magazine announced that little more than \$100,000 remained to be raised for the campaign.

The ever faithful alumnae continued to send in contributions throughout the next few months. In February the Methodist churches answered a second appeal for funds with more than \$8,000. But it was James H. Porter again who saved the day. Taking back his pledges for \$100,000 and \$10,000 made earlier he substituted a new pledge for \$150,000 thus enabling those in charge to write "Finis" to the campaign.

Mr. Porter's gift is the largest in all Wesleyan's history, topping by \$25,000 the gifts of George I. Seney in the 1880's and of Benjamin N. Duke in 1924. Not only does it stand as an evidence of superb generosity, but it made secure for Wesleyan the more than 10,000 smaller gifts of friends of the college. For if the campaign had not been completely successful, no gift would have been worthwhile. Wesleyan had to have the

full amount; careful committees had estimated the price to be paid the bondholders, plus absolutely necessary costs of campaign, interest payments, etc., and they knew that nothing less could be considered. Many of the contributions to the campaign were made on condition that the full amount be pledged.

### The Dedication of The Veterropt

The 1940 Wesleyan annual, "The Veterropt" carried the following dedication:

To

JAMES H. PORTER,

WHO, IN MEMORY OF HIS WIFE, OLIVE SWANN PORTER, came to the aid of Wesleyan in the greatest crisis of its history, we, the class of 1940, dedicate this volume of the Veterropt in sincere appreciation.

And to the 10,000 friends of Wesleyan whose sacrificial gifts, together with Mr. Porter's made possible the redemption of our school, we extend our deepest gratitude.

### Wesleyan Buildings Honor Porters

The February Alumnae magazine carried the story of the dedication of The Olive Swann Porter Building, named in memory of Mrs. James H. Porter. At this time a beautiful portrait of Mrs. Porter, gift of Mr. Porter to Wesleyan, was unveiled. It hangs in the lobby of the building which bears her name, and every day Mr. Porter sends fresh flowers from the Porterfield gardens to be placed beneath the portrait. On Sunday, May 5, the Wesleyan students, by special invitation, visited Porterfield to see Mr. Porter's famous rose gardens.

By vote of the Board of Trustees, the Wesleyan gymnasium has been named in honor of Mr. Porter, the most generous benefactor in Wesleyan's history.



## *An Appreciation: Jim Porter, Our Friend*

The year 1836 witnessed the successful struggle in the legislature for Wesleyan's charter, and the birth of a Georgia gentleman whose life was to parallel Wesleyan's in some of its struggles and whose son a century later was to save Wesleyan by his generosity.

For it was in 1836 that Oliver S. Porter, father of James Hyde Porter, was born, entering the Confederate Army in his early manhood to return wounded from Gettysburg to a devastated state, to teach school in Covington until he could buy a small cotton mill and begin his pioneering development of the textile industry in the south.

Under his thorough tutelage, his son James received his first training in the cotton industry, later becoming executive vice-president of the Bibb Manufacturing Company, one of the largest textile corporations in America.

Wesleyan, too, had the troubles of a pioneer, and the hardships of the 1860 war years, being one of the few colleges in the south that never closed her doors. She, too, emerged from it into strength and success so that in 1927, with a waiting list of three hundred prospective students, she built the most complete and beautiful plant of any woman's college in the south and stood ready for greater service.

Then the depression came, and Wesleyan's very existence depended upon raising \$600,000.

Many of us turned our eyes with longing to the great philanthropists of the east, feeling that the small amount that each of us could give would come to naught without the miracle of large gifts. Lack of contact closed those doors to us.

So, 10,000 friends and neighbors and church-members and alumnae gave what they could. It was not enough, but it was a strong enough and earnest enough plea to convince Mr. Porter that substantial help from him would be well placed. So he wrote a pledge for \$150,000 that completed the \$600,000 needed.

It was in 1927 that Mr. James Porter became a member of Wesleyan's Board of Trustees and the destiny of the college and that of the son of Oliver S. Porter joined. Astrologists would tell us, no doubt, that the star over the legislature and that over the birth-place of Oliver S. Porter in 1836 were in proper conjunction; the fatalists would say, "It was so intended; it had to be." Friends of Wesleyan know that it is Mr. Porter's "talent for giving" stronger in him than in most men, and are grateful for all the influences in his life that have prompted him to give himself and his fortune to church and to education and to the help of his fellow-men. It is through his goodness that Wesleyan has received the "Smile of God",



# The One-Hundredth Anniversary

The one hundredth anniversary of the first graduation at Wesleyan will be a season of great rejoicing, not only in the celebration of a unique event in the past, but in the prospect of a future of promise for a debt-free Wesleyan. The campaign has been successfully completed; this fact was officially recognized at a recent meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the college is now ready to step into the new century with a firm tread.

## Commencement to Honor First Graduates

According to a resolution of the Board of Trustees, the commencement activities of 1940 will honor the eleven first graduates of 1840. At the banquet given to the senior class by Dr. and Mrs. Dice R. Anderson in May, miniature copies of the first diplomas will be given each of the class. This issue of the *Alumnae* magazine will preserve for future generations all the facts about the first commencement and its graduates.

The diplomas of the 1940 class will carry this inscription in gold: "Centennial of the First Graduation" 1840-1940.

Graduation exercises this year will be held in the old chapel at the conservatory on the campus where George Foster Pierce delivered the first baccalaureate address to the class of 1840. College and conservatory girls will graduate together.

## Alumnae Invited to Attend

Alumnae of all classes are invited to come back for the occasion, and will be guests of the college.

The first event of commencement is the Musical Soiree on Friday evening, in the conservatory chapel.

On Saturday morning the annual meeting of the Alumnae Association will be held in the Conservatory chapel, Annabel Horn, national president, in charge.

A picnic lunch will be served for alumnae on the campus at 1:30 Saturday.

## "The Prophecy Fulfilled"

On Saturday evening, at the conservatory chapel, the dramatic performance commemorating the anniversary will be given under the direction of Miss Ruth Simonson and Miss Mildred Cartledge of the Wesleyan faculty. A cast of over 200 students will take part in this performance, which is in the nature of a spectacle honoring the achievements of women in the past hundred years.

The curtain will rise on the first graduation scene, with George Foster Pierce, first president, speaking the words of the actual baccalaureate address of 1840 in which he prophesied that woman, through education, would take a larger place in the world of the future.

As the lights fade on this scene, fulfillment of his prophecy will be shown in a series of scenes, each followed by a symbolic dance. In the arts, in benevolence, in education, in public affairs, in science, woman's sphere has been enlarged. In a triumphant final scene, the entire cast will form a background for the entrance of the class of 1940, and will sing the Alma Mater.

## Commencement Sunday and Graduation

The baccalaureate sermon by William Bryan Selah, A.B., D.D., pastor of St. John's Methodist Church, Memphis, Tenn., will be given at Mulberry Street Methodist church.

Graduation exercises will take place in the conservatory chapel on Monday morning. The literary address will be given by James Dickason Haskins, B. S., A.M., LL.B., LL.D., Litt.D., President of the University of Tennessee.



# The Graduate of 1840

## Her First Day at College

"After a solemn prayer, ninety young ladies came forward and registered their names as candidates for admission. It was an occasion of deep and thrilling excitement. A large and respectable number of the citizens of Macon were assembled in the college chapel to witness the opening scene. The hopes and fears of its friends, the predictions of its enemies, and the eager delight of the congregated pupils all conspired to invest the service with an interest additional to its intrinsic importance.

"Before the termination of the first term the number of pupils had increased to 168."

—*From Butler's "History of Macon".*

## The Building in Which She Lived

"The college building is located on a commanding eminence, midway between the business portion of the city of Macon and the village of Vineville. The city is spread out upon the plain below; the surrounding hills are crowned with private mansions of the most tasteful architecture. On the western side is Vineville with its quiet dwellings and the majestic pine forests nearby; on the north are the ruins of old Fort Hawkins. Blockhouses and the relics of ancient fortifications are remaining, to connect its present peaceful habitations with the stir and clangor of martial troops and deadly strife.

"The college edifice is an imposing structure, one hundred and sixty feet long and sixty feet wide, rising four stories high in the center, and crowned with a cupola. There are fifty-six rooms in the building. The chapel is on the second floor. It is forty feet wide, extending in length across the whole breadth of the building. The third and fourth stories are divided into dormitories. There are spacious rooms, generally eighteen feet square, with large windows and high ceilings. The plan is to put four young ladies in a room, the furniture to be provided by the occupants."

—*From "Georgia Illustrated", Published in 1842. Copy presented to the Wesleyan Library by James H. Porter, Trustee.*

## A Typical College Day

At sunrise the girls who boarded in the college were summoned by a bell to meet in the chapel for family prayer, conducted by the president. Attendance was compulsory. From then until breakfast they studied, then had recreation in autumn and winter until nine; in spring and summer, until eight.

Next, all pupils, boarding and day scholars, assembled for morning prayer. Recitations followed until eleven, study hour until twelve, boarders in their rooms and day students in the chapel under the supervision of a teacher. From twelve until two came dinner and recreation; then study until four when all classes recited again. At five there was prayer and dismissal. Supper and recreation followed until seven, study until nine, and "afterwards retire and sleep at will."

—*Compiled from Southern Ladies' Book, Volume I, and from catalogs of early 1840's.*

## The President of the College in 1840

George Foster Pierce was 28 years old when he became president of Wesleyan, then the Georgia Female College. He is described as "wonderfully attractive, his hair black, his eyes sparkling, his complexion rosy and fresh as a girl's".

"He is the most symmetrical man, the handsomest, the most gifted intellectually and the purest in life of any man I have ever known."

—*Robert Toombs.*

"The purest diction on the American continent today is being written by George Foster Pierce."

—*Lord Macaulay of England.*



"In fifty years of preaching, he never failed to fill a house, and never spoke to a listless audience."

—*Rev. George G. Smith, in "The Life and Times of George Foster Pierce".*

### Her Trustees

During the Centennial year, 1936, Wesleyan received a rare and valuable gift, a copy of the first catalog ever issued by the college, dated 1839! It is in an excellent state of preservation. It came to Wesleyan from Dr. Margie Burks of Tallahassee, Florida, alumna and former trustee, whose mother, Mrs. Ria Weaver Burks, was for many years a beloved teacher at Wesleyan. In it are the names of the first Board of Trustees, the first Faculty, the first students.

"The trustees were some of the leading men of the state, embracing lawyers, judges congressmen, preachers and planters."

—*Hugh Washington, in a speech on "The Founding of the First College for Women".*

The Board, according to the 1839 catalog: George F. Pierce, President

Samuel K. Hodges	} Conference Trustees
William Arnold	
Lovick Pierce	
William J. Parks	
Elijah Sinclair	
James O. Andrew	
John W. Talley	
Alexander Speer	
Willis D. Mathews	
I. A. Few	
Everard Hamilton, Treasurer	
Henry G. Lamar	
Jerry Cowles	
Absalom H. Chappell	
George Jewett	
Ossian Gregory	
Augustus B. Longstreet	
Walter T. Colquitt	
Peyton L. Wade	
Abner H. Flewellen	

### Her Teachers

(As given in the catalog of The Georgia Female College, 1839)

Rev. George F. Pierce, A. M., President and Professor of Moral and Mental Philosophy, Logic and Belles Letters and Evidences of Christianity.

Rev. William H. Ellison, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy.

Mr. Thomas B. Slade, A. M., Professor of Natural Science.

Mr. Adolphus Maussanet, A. M., Professor of Ancient and Modern Languages.

Mr. B. B. Hopkins, Principal of Primary School.

Mr. John H. Uthink, Professor of Music.

Miss Maria T. Lord, Assistant.

Miss Martha J. Massey, Superintends Drawing and Painting—and assists in the Music Department.

Mrs. Kingman superintends the department of Domestic Economy.

The Steward's department is managed by Mr. Freeman and Lady.

Mantua maker and Milliner.

### Her Studies

"As for mathematical, English, historical, religious and scientific studies, this 'female college' compared favorably with the male . . . . One cannot read the various utterances of Pierce without being convinced that he was striving for a higher institution different from the seminary."

—*From "A History of Women's Education in the United States", by Thomas Woody.*

" . . . embracing all the Sciences which are usually taught in the Colleges of the United States, with such as appropriately belong to Female Education in its most ample range . . . . "

—*From the diplomas of 1840.*

"We want to make education thorough, practical, an intellectual preparation for the duties of life, by giving **matter** the preference of **manner**. We would not waste time, money and youth in preparing a frail, flitzy fabric and then overloading it by meretricious decorations."

—*George Foster Pierce, writing in Southern Ladies' Book in 1840.*



### Her Recreation

"The yard immediately around the college has been graded to a level, extending over a lot of four acres. The whole enclosure is well adapted for tasteful adornment, and affords the young ladies ample space for exercise and recreation."

—George F. Pierce.

"In fair weather, free and regular exercise in the open air will be encouraged. The merry laugh, the cheerful sport, will not be considered indecorous, but encouraged as the best means of giving elasticity and energy both to the mental and physical powers."

—From an early Wesleyan catalog.

### Her Government

"The Georgia Female College was an early exception to the general rule . . . (i.e. The seminary had many rules; so did most of the early colleges.) Discipline appears to have been mild and rules few, government being 'founded on mutual confidence and affection between teacher and pupil.' It was stated that 'no difficulties had arisen of serious magnitude', and that 'acts of disorder' were of 'the mischievous kind rather than the rebellious—ebullitions of playful feeling—the giddy thoughtlessness of a spirit full of life, rather than the wicked disrespect of authority and rule'."

—From Dr. Thomas Woody, quoting from "*The Southern Ladies' Book*".

### The Bills That Troubled Her Father's Purse

Regular College Course, per annum	..\$50.00
Music, per quarter .....	15.00
Drawing and Painting, per quarter .....	8.00
Latin and Greek, per quarter each .....	5.00
Italian and Spanish, per quarter each ..	6.00
Board (exclusive of washing and candles), per month .....	15.00
General Repairs to College Building ....	1.00
Laws .....	.25
Fee of Testimonial .....	3.00

—From 1839 catalog.

"The College has suffered in reputation from the idea entertained throughout some portions of the country that the expenses

of this Institution exceed those of any other Female School. A simple inspection of the above rates will convince any individual to the contrary; for it will be observed that for about \$190 per year all the necessary expenses for a thorough education are covered, which is 20 per cent lower than that of some half dozen schools both North and South, whose circulars are now before us—institutions which cannot offer anything in comparison with the advantages afforded by this college.

" 'The girls are very extravagant', say some. 'Just what we expected!', reply the balance. Everybody believes the report, and nobody bothers to ask the reporter, 'How do you know?' It may be so—and it may not. If it is, the College may have no more to do with it than the French Chamber of Deputies.

"A gentleman brings his daughter to the Institution. He is a very economical gentleman, and the times are hard, and he informs the President that the great drawback to education is its cost. He purchases for her room fine furniture, a high post bedstead, bureau of mahogany, a carpet at \$1.50 a yard. He goes down town and tells some merchants to give his daughter credit for anything she wants, for he desires that his darling shall be comfortable.

"When he goes home he slips a ten or twenty dollar bill in a letter every once in a while that his daughter may buy fruit, ice creams, candy, almonds, raisins and the like. At the close of the term, he adds it all together, throws in stage and tavern bills on the road going and coming, and when it is all figured out, he draws a long asthmatic breath and exclaims, 'Good Heavens! What an extravagant place that Female College is!'"

—George Foster Pierce, writing in "*Southern Ladies' Book*", 1840.

### Her Graduation Night

"A public examination of the pupils of the College will take place at the close of the term in July. Many of the reasons for public examinations can only be appreciated by the instructor, but there is one that must be apparent to all; the continuance of effort



on the part of the pupils to the very close of the term. When no examination is to take place, the last two or three weeks of the term are filled with thoughts of home and little or no profitable study is performed, we care not how strict the discipline may be."

—*From an early circular of the college.*

"It is the night of the 18th of July, 1840, a dark starless night, ill fitted for the great event about to take place. The large college building with its broad verandas and tall, white columns stand out imposingly against the dark background. Cheerful lights gleam from its innumerable windows and within is a scene of confusion and excitement.

"As the hour hand approaches eight the college bell begins to ring. Louder and louder it grows, seeming to redouble its energy with each pull of the cord, joyfully proclaiming an unusual event, important not only in the history of Macon, but in the history of every city, for tonight will appear the first graduates from the first woman's college in the world.

"Far and wide the news had been spread and country folk in holiday garb, and conveyed in various vehicles have come to witness the scene. Their horses now stand together outside the college gate, while the owners hasten toward the building.

"The room is bare of flowers . . . The lights are from candles, but not too dim for one to discern the central figures in tonight's exercises . . . happy girls attired in white muslin dresses, unfrilled, unruffled, untrimmed, with hair parted and pushed gently back from the forehead and caught in a tucking comb, with faces glowing and eyes sparkling with excitement."

—*From "The Adelphean", published in 1899.*

"Could a man ever forget a Wesleyan Commencement—the erudite examinations, the graduates 'beautiful as angels and dressed in white' with handkerchiefs spasmodically daubed to face during the grave baccalaureate, and then the Fantasticals who in all manner of ludicrous disguises would parade around the college on horseback in honor of the graduates—could one ever forget such a thing, having once en-

joyed it?"

*From John Donald Wade's "Augustus B. Longstreet".*

### Her President's Message of Farewell

*(Excerpts from the first Baccalaureate Address, in which President Pierce prophesied that woman, through education, would take a greater place in the world—that it would be "her province, her right, her duty". This speech to be used as a basis for a dramatic performance celebrating the centennial of the first graduation, and showing the fulfillment of his prophecy.)*

"I rise to perform my last duty connected with my official relation to you. The work of instruction is done; its cares, its longings are in the past.

"In my humble opinion, a grievous error has been incorporated into the organization of society, and is recognized as truth and supported upon system. Woman's influence has been underrated as to its nature and capabilities, fettered and circumscribed as to its operations, and even when acknowledged has been appropriated to ends, though worthy perhaps, yet far beneath the actual reach of her power. Woman's empire is the heart, the poets say, and they say truly; but they have restricted their meaning to taste and sentiment and sensibility, and to the bland virtues of domestic life. Female influence has softened our rough nature and made us polite when we might have been clowns. This is the sphere assigned to woman.

"These are insignificant achievements, lever power to move an infant's burden. Woman can do more. It is her province, her right, her duty. Minds, morals, character come within the range of her responsibilities, and her action upon these ought to be cheered, encouraged, upheld by public sentiment.

"Identify yourselves with the refined, the intellectual, the benevolent, and thus take the proud position to which your circumstances and claims entitle you, and which a discerning public will not fail to award you. The sphere of woman is constantly enlarging as education fits her for loftier duties and Christian philanthropy multiplies



her means of doing good. If every successive year do not witness the augmentation of female influence upon the best interests of mankind—if the dawning glories of the day that science and commerce and religion are rolling onward to the zenith do not wake a most generous ambition—then will the guilt of a most culpable neglect lie at your door.

"Oh, come forth and live! Tear off the bandages of a vitiated taste, compress no more the organs of breathing, bounding

thought, let your understandings swell out in the fullness of their native dimensions and walk abroad majestic in thought, radiant with light, and marching onward to achievements so glorious that the past and the present shall be to the future as the glimmering light of an isolated moonbeam to the full-orbed glories of noon."

"And now—

'A word that must be, and hath been;  
A sound that makes us linger,  
Yet farewell.' "

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## What Happened To The First Class After Graduation?

In the 1839 catalog twenty girls are listed in the "Junior Class". Of this number eleven graduated on the night of the 16th of July, 1840, the pioneers in education for women.

For many years the only records of Wesleyan girls after their graduation were kept in the memory of their teachers who loved them. With the opening of an Alumnae Office on the campus, there began the keeping of permanent records of all graduates and former students, so that finding out the life stories of the class of 1940, even one hundred years hence, will be an easy task as compared with that of finding out about the class of 1840.

We have made every effort to get from relatives living today a biographical sketch and a picture of each of the 1840 graduates. In some cases our records are all too scant, and not always could we secure a picture. It is our purpose to add to these records as other material comes to light, and we shall appreciate any help our readers can give.

It is clear to us from the material we have discovered about the first graduates that they were exceptional women. Such statements as these were made by persons who had first-hand knowledge of one or another of the class: "She wrote a beautiful letter"; "She was interested in people, books, and the wonderful world in which she lived almost until the day of her death"; "She was deeply interested in religious and intellectual matters"; "She was an inveterate reader"; "She was quite an old lady then, but when I went to see her she was reading Horace".

These were the daughters, naturally, of far-sighted families in which education was considered of prime importance, families which sent their girls to college even though many people thought women incapable of learning. But it is undoubtedly true that every member of the class got something vital and worthwhile from her days in the first woman's college and her association with the great and good people connected with Wesleyan's early days.



## CATHERINE E. BREWER

Catherine Elizabeth Brewer was born in Augusta, Georgia, in 1822, her parents having moved to Georgia from Brookline, Mass. It was planned to send her to Boston to school when her father heard of a new college to be opened in Macon, The Georgia Female College.

She went to Wesleyan on its opening day, and graduated in the first class, being alphabetically the first in line and therefore the first woman to receive her degree from a college chartered for women.

In November, 1842 she married Richard Aaron Benson, a graduate of Randolph Macon College in Virginia. Her interests were largely centered in her home, her church, and her Alma Mater. She lived in Macon, and attended meetings of the Wesleyan Alumnae Association which was organized in 1859, the first association of its kind in the world.

Her only daughter, Gertrude (Mrs. H. C. Arnall of Newnan), who graduated from Wesleyan in 1881, and her son, Frank C. Benson of Macon, survive her.

She became the mother of ten children, most distinguished of whom was William Shepherd Benson, ranking Admiral of the United States Navy during the World War, who received for his services the highest honors of his own and foreign countries. The copy of Raphael's "Madonna of the Chair" which hangs in the Grand Parlor at Wesleyan today was his gift to the college in memory of his mother.

In 1888, at the Semi-Centennial Celebration at Wesleyan, Mrs. Benson read an essay describing her college days, and a copy of this essay, in her own hand, is among the historical souvenirs of the college. On this occasion she gave her diploma to her Alma Mater where it is treasured today as the "First Diploma".

Her children who lived to maturity are: **R. E. Benson**, whose children are T. A. Benson and Ethel (Benson) Arnold of Newnan whose daughter, Cleo, lead the Alumnae Procession in the Centennial pageant in 1936; **T. A. Benson**, whose children are Lora (Benson) Smith and Frank L. Benson, whose daughter, Catherine, represented



CATHERINE (BREWER) BENSON

her great grandmother in the pageant's first graduation scene; **T. B. Benson**, whose children are Mamie (Benson) Enloe and Lula (Benson) Parker; **Gertrude (Benson) Arnall**, **William Shepherd Benson**, whose children are May (Benson) Krafft, Howard Benson and Wyse Benson, and **Frank C. Benson**.

Catherine (Brewer) Benson made her home in her late years with her son, Frank Benson, and his wife. The family has always taken a prominent part in the affairs of the church, and Mrs. Benson was until her death in 1908 a beloved person in the community, keen of mind and active in body. Her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Frank Benson, keeps in close touch with Wesleyan and has a niece in this year's class, Lucille Williams.

She was 86 years old when she died, and her funeral was held in the Wesleyan parlors. Among the Wesleyan souvenirs is a handsome bedspread which she crocheted herself and gave to the college. In the Alumnae Office hangs a portrait of her, painted by Kathleen (Ayer) Hatcher of the class of 1893.

(Biographical material from the Frank C. Bensons of Macon.)



## SARAH V. CLOPTON

Sarah V. Clopton was the daughter of Alford Clopton and Sarah Kendrick Clopton of Macon, and the house in which she was born still stands on Vineville Avenue. Her brothers and sisters were Nathaniel, Martha, David (mentioned in Catherine Brewer Benson's essay on page 17), James, Eliza, and Mary Ann. They were descendants of Sir Hugh Clopton of Stratford-on-Avon, England.

She married Dr. James L. Pierce, of the famous Methodist family of Pierces, son of Dr. Lovick Pierce, brother of Dr. George Foster Pierce and Dr. Thomas F. Pierce, all ministers. She had one son, named George Foster in honor of his uncle, the first president of Wesleyan, whose name is often mentioned in "The Life and Times of George Foster Pierce", by the Rev. George G. Smith.

Sarah (Clopton) Pierce was the first to leave the circle of eleven friends of 1840. Rev. Smith states that in 1849, when George F. Pierce was living in Oxford as president of Emory, "the bright son of his brother, James, was also with him", and the implication is that his mother had died before this time. There is later record of his traveling with his uncle on trips to conferences in the west, of his being wounded in the

Confederate army, and then this sentence: "George was the leading young lawyer of the county and a member of the Legislature."

Two grandsons of Sarah (Clopton) Pierce are living today: Harley Pierce of Chicago, and Marion Pierce of Cleveland, Ohio.

Some of Sarah (Clopton) Pierce's silver spoons, bearing her initials, came into possession of her great niece, Clara Ophelia (Harris) Bland, Wesleyan alumna, through her grandmother, Ann (Clopton) Wiley.

Mrs. John S. Tilley of Montgomery, Ala., (Wilhelmina Lanier) is a granddaughter of David Clopton, who was a member of the Supreme Court of Alabama. Mrs. W. D. Lamar of Macon (Dorothy Blount, A.B. Wesleyan, 1883) is a granddaughter of Ann (Clopton) Wiley. Mrs. Fred J. Cooledge, Jr., of Atlanta, (Wilhelmina Lanier Clopton) is a great niece of Sarah (Clopton) Pierce.

(Biographical information from: Mrs. John S. Tilley, Montgomery; Dorothy (Blount) Lamar and Clara O. (Harris) Bland, Macon, great nieces of Sarah (Clopton) Pierce; and Claude Pierce Middlebrooks, Sparta, granddaughter of Bishop Pierce.)

## ELIZABETH FLOURNOY



ELIZABETH (FLOURNOY) BRANHAM

Elizabeth Flournoy was born December 27, 1919, near Eatonton, on her father's plantation. She was descended from the Huguenots and in 1567 one of her ancestors, Laurent Flournoy, fled from France after the Duke of Guise massacred the Protestants. History says, "The family of Flournoy were early sufferers for their scriptural faith." Laurent's two sons came to America, and Elizabeth was a descendant of one of them.

Elizabeth Flournoy's father, Josiah Flournoy, must have inherited some of the fine qualities of his ancestor, for he was the first man in Georgia to make a fight on liquor. It took courage and high type of manhood to take this stand, and he was made to suffer for it.

Elizabeth Flournoy was often heard to



say, "I am a born abolitionist and asked my father not to give me any slaves, but he died without making a will, and I had to take them." She loved her negroes and taught her children too, but felt keenly the responsibility for their bodies and souls, and it was a glad day for her when they were freed, for she said, "So was I." When Bishop Haygood wrote "Our Brother in Black" he was criticized for his attitude toward the negro. She agreed with him and said, "He is just 20 years ahead of his time." Time has proved this true.

She was married on October 15, 1840, to the Rev. Walter R. Branham of Oxford, who came to be professor of history and moral philosophy at Wesleyan in the 1840's. Bishop George F. Pierce, first president of Wesleyan, performed the ceremony. Her golden wedding was celebrated in 1890 in the home in Oxford where the family has lived since 1855 and where the third generation now lives.

Elizabeth Flournoy was an unusual woman. She loved life, had a keen sense of humor, was interested in people, books, and in the wonderful world in which she lived almost until the day of her death in 1904 at the age of 84. The Rev. C. C. Jarrell said of her, "Her sanity and sanctity went so well in hand that one saw in her much of the gentle, human goodness fed from the deep springs of love and fear of God."

She was the mother of seven children: **Junius Wingfield**, who married Laura Sasnett and later Sarah Stone of the Wesleyan class of 1886, and whose children were:

William Sasnett, Walter, Flournoy, Bolling, Sarah Elizabeth, and George Harlan; **Edward**, who married Julia Billups and whose children were Hal and Emmee; **Elizabeth** who married Henry Emery and whose children were Walter, Annie, and Julia (now Dr. Julia Jordan Emery of Chicago); **Walter**, who married Addie Singleton, Wesleyan alumna, and whose children were; Joseph Singleton, Rebecca (Wesleyan alumna), Walter, Elizabeth, Martha (who represented her grandmother in the Wesleyan pageant), and Virlyn; **Henry**, who married Sadie Harwell, and whose daughter was Cecelia Billups, Wesleyan alumna; **Martha** who married Thomas Moore, and whose children were: Walter, Virlyn (now Judge Virlyn B. Moore), and James; and **Virlinda**, known as "Lynn", Wesleyan graduate of 1886.

It is Elizabeth (Flournoy) Branham's granddaughter, Sara Elizabeth Branham, who has most clearly fulfilled the prophesy of the first president of Wesleyan in his baccalaureate address to the class of 1840: "Woman's sphere, through education, will be greatly enlarged in the years to come."

Sara Branham (A.B. Wesleyan 1907), today holds seven academic degrees, among them the Ph.D., the M. D., and the honorary Doctor of Science. She is senior bacteriologist in the U. S. Public Health Laboratories in Washington, D. C. and her research has helped to save thousands of lives.

(Biographical material and photograph from her daughter, Lynn Branham).

### ANN ELIZABETH HARDEMAN

Achsah Ann Elizabeth Hardeman (who shortened her name to "Ann E." when she was at Wesleyan) was born July 22, 1822, the eldest of nine children of Thomas Hardeman, Sr., and Sarah Bluett Sparks, who moved to Macon in 1827 from Eatonton, Ga.

Thomas Hardeman sent seven daughters to Wesleyan and was himself a trustee of the college from 1842 to 1861. He was a cotton broker and a prominent member of Mulberry Street Methodist Church. This mention of him appears in the Memoirs of Judge Richard H. Clark: "There arises before me in the mist of the past that man who in his time was the man of all men in Macon, Thomas Hardeman, Sr. Apart from his influence in business life, he was famed for his probity and purity of character."



ANN E. (HARDEMAN) GRISWOLD



In 1844 Ann Hardeman married Elisha Case Griswold whose sister, Mary S. Griswold, was a classmate of Ann E. Hardeman's at Wesleyan, though not a graduate. The father of Elisha and Mary Griswold manufactured the first cotton gins in the county.

Ann E. (Hardeman) Griswold was the mother of three sons, **Samuel, Charles and David Pratt**. She died on June 28, 1855, aged only 32 years. The oldest son, Samuel, went to live with his grandfather Griswold in Griswoldville, the two younger boys, David only a baby, with an aunt, Mrs. W. F. Anderson of Macon.

Neither Charles nor David had any children. Samuel's children were: Ada Elizabeth, who studied music at Wesleyan and died as a young lady; Lucetta, who died in 1895; Sidney S., a bachelor, living today in Macon; Nell, who graduated in 1897 and married Mr. P. T. Anderson, publisher of the Macon Telegraph and News; and Julia Pratt, now Mrs. S. J. May of Macon.

Ann E. (Hardeman) Griswold's great grandchildren are the son and daughter of Nell (Griswold) Anderson: Peyton T., Jr., graduate from Annapolis and now associated with his father in newspaper publishing, who married Katherine McClure and has two small daughters, Katherine and Laura Deyerle; and Laura Nell, who graduated from Wesleyan in 1933, and who represented her great grandmother in the Wesleyan Centennial pageant.

Members of the family today treasure Ann (Hardeman) Griswold's diploma, and many lovely examples of her handiwork, for she was unusually gifted with her needle. They have been told by older members of the family that the young woman was deeply interested in intellectual and religious matters, as would seem natural in the daughter of Thomas Hardeman and the pupil of George F. Pierce of the Georgia Female College.

(Biographical material and photograph from Nell Griswold Anderson, her granddaughter)

### JULIA M. HEARD

Julia Mounger Heard was the 1840 graduate whose home was the greatest distance from Macon, in Mobile, Alabama, and it was she of whom Catherine Benson wrote in

her essay on her college days:

"After our graduation dresses were made we were startled by the information, 'Julia Heard's dress has come, and it is so fine, has two flounces on the skirt and is trimmed with lace and ribbon!' It was too late on our part to make changes, so we made a virtue of necessity and bore it quietly. We saw, we admired the fine dress but felt no envy for when that left us, our beloved classmate would go with it to her happy home on the Gulf."

Julia Heard married James Elder of Mobile when she was nineteen years old. He was Scotch-Irish, born in Londonderry, and was a prominent railroad man and cotton broker in Mobile.

Julia (Heard) Elder was a brilliant and beautiful woman and was active in the civic and social life of Mobile. At one time she was president of the Protestant Orphan Asylum there. During the War Between the States she gave her services untiringly to



JULIA (HEARD) ELDER



the Confederate soldiers.

She had only one child, **Ruth Anna**, who married William H. Hall of Mobile. There were no children of this marriage.

Julia (Heard) Elder died in 1865 in her early forties.

Two nieces and two nephews are promi-

nent today in Mobile: Mrs. Ann Bozeman Lyon, Mrs. Winston Jones, Mr. Wyndham Lyon, and Mr. F. H. Lyon.

(Biographical material and photograph secured from the family through Winifred (Stiles) Bell, A.B. '30, of Mobile.)

### MARTHA HEARD

Martha Heard, the fifth graduate, was born in 1822 in LaGrange, Ga., the daughter of George and Martha Coffee Heard.

After her graduation from Wesleyan she married James Madison Beall of LaGrange in 1841. Her wedding present from her father was a home which is today one of the loveliest old Colonial homes in LaGrange.

Martha (Heard) Beall had four children, none of whom is living today: **Egbert** whose children were Egbert, Jr., Rebecca, and Charles; **Martha Faulkner** (Mrs. Charles Bromfield Ridley), whose children were: James Beall, Robert B., Julia (Mrs. E. D. Willett), and Ellie (Mrs. Ben Swanson); **Louisa Coffee** (Mrs. Beall), whose children

were: James Faulkner, Albert, Julia Coffee (Mrs. Nathan Bell Dozier) and Charles Ridley, besides two children who died in infancy; and **Julia** (Mrs. Scott Todd of Atlanta) whose children were: James Scott, Henry, and Louise (Mrs. Samuel S. Wallace).

Martha (Heard) Beall died in 1861 at the age of 39.

In the Wesleyan Centennial pageant she was represented by a great granddaughter, Mrs. J. H. Daughdrill (nee Louisa Dozier) of LaGrange.

(Biographical material supplied by Mrs. Daughdrill.

### SARAH M. HOLT

Sarah M. Holt's father, Judge Tarpley Holt, was one of the first subscribers to the fund to build the Georgia Female College. Her brother, Abner Flewellyn Holt, was a trustee of Wesleyan from 1842 to 1848. Her uncle, Abner H. Flewellyn, and also Judge Holt's nephew, Walter T. Colquitt, were among the first trustees of the college.

Pictorial record of the first Wesleyan graduates is rare, because it was not until 1842 (according to Butler's History of Macon) that the first daguerrean gallery was established in Macon. A picture of Sarah Holt, a copy of which was given to the college by her great nieces, Mary (Callaway) Jones and Kate (Callaway) Malone, Wesleyan alumnae, must have been one of the first pictures made in this gallery, in



SARAH (HOLT) WARD



1842 at the time of her marriage to Rowan H. Ward of Putnam County.

Sarah (Holt) Ward made her home in Putnam County until her death in 1892. Her two children were **Benjamin Franklin Ward**, who died of fever in the Confederate army in 1862, and **Tarpley Holt Ward**, who married and settled in Memphis, Tenn., where his five children were born: William Dickson, Frank Flewellyn, Sarah Holt (Mrs. Wallace P. Dalton), Margaret (Mrs. Radford Southall), and Bessie (Mrs. Richard T. Lipscomb).

Sarah (Holt) Ward's great grandniece, Margaret Adams, is a member of this year's class of Wesleyan graduates, and represented her great aunt in the first graduation scene of the Wesleyan Centennial Pageant.

Because of her fine record in high school, Margaret was awarded the Pauline Logan Findlay Memorial Scholarship which is given each year by Margaret McEvoy, Wesleyan alumna. It is an interesting fact that Pauline (Logan) Findlay, A.B., 1885, whose memory the scholarship honors, was a niece of another of the "first eleven graduates", Ann E. Hardeman. Margaret Adams has made a record at Wesleyan of which her great aunt would be proud. She was recently elected to membership in the honorary scholastic society, Phi Delta Phi.

(Biographical material and photograph from Mary (Calloway) Jones and Kate (Calloway Malone, nieces and Wesleyan alumnae).

### MATILDA J. MOORE

Matilda J. Moore was the daughter of a Macon merchant, and a descendant of Walton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1847 she became the second wife of Willis L. Breazeal of Laurens County, and lived on a plantation four miles west of Laurens Hill which older inhabitants of Dublin remember well as "The Old Breazeal Place".

She had two daughters, both of whom came to Wesleyan: Leila in 1870, and Cleone in 1874. Leila married Jerry Yopp of Laurens County, and her children are: Ilah (Mrs. Lamar Fordham of Pavo), Leila (Mrs. Lawson Wolfe of Tallahassee, Fla.), Jerrylie (Mrs. Hendrick of Atlanta), Frances, Hansell and John.

Cleone married Henry Sauls of Hawkinsville, and her children are: Willis Breazeal, Walton, and a daughter, now Mrs. Charlie Harrell of Eastman.

Matilda (Moore) Breazeal died in 1900, and both daughters have since died.

A step-granddaughter, Sarah (Sparks) Vickers of Gadsden, Ala., A.B., '74, says of

her: "She was a tall, handsome woman, with the gracious manner characterizing women of the South in that day."

Mr. Thomas J. Blackshear of Dublin, now in his 84th year, is a son of Isabella (Hamilton) Blackshear, Matilda Moore's roommate at the Georgia Female College. He was often a guest in her home in Laurens County, and remembers her with admiration.

Mrs. S. R. Dull, editor of the Homemaking page in The Atlanta Journal and editor of the book, "Southern Cooking", is a great niece of Matilda (Moore) Breazeal, and says: "She was a gracious, lovely lady, few her equal. She stands out in my memory clearly, with many things to make her unforgettable. She wrote a beautiful letter."

(Biographical information from Thomas J. Blackshear of Dublin; W. H. Adams, Ordinary of Laurens County; Mrs. S. R. Dull, Atlanta, great niece; Sarah (Sparks) Vickers, Gadsden, Ala., step granddaughter, and Mrs. Henrietta Glover, Hawkinsville, great niece.)



## HARRIET M. ROSS

Harriet Matilda Ross was one of thirteen children of Luke and Mary Grimes Ross of Macon, pioneer citizens. Harriet was born in 1823.

On January 11, 1843 she married Judge Walter T. Colquitt, one of the early trustees of Wesleyan, and, according to Avery's History of Georgia, "the most versatile and brilliant public man Georgia has ever known". He was a member of Congress and United States Senator. Harriet Ross was his third wife, and she had six step-children, one of whom was Alfred Holt Colquitt who became Governor of the state and United States Senator.

Harriet (Ross) Colquitt's children were: **Walter Luke**, who lived only three years; **Hugh Harralson**, whose only son, Emil Carter, died in young manhood; **Marshall Welborn**, whose children are: Lilla Habersham (Mrs. John Barnwell), Harriet Ross, Neyle, Joe Clay, Anna Habersham (Mrs. G. L. C. Hunter), and Welborn; **William Alexander** whose children are: Philip Raiford, Walter Terry, William Ross, Frank Porter, Lilla Claire (Mrs. George Mallard Baker), and Alfred Holt; **Mary**, who died at one year; and **Nancy Virginia** (Mrs. Harry C. Ansley).

Sixteen great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren are living today.

Walter T. Colquitt died in 1855, and Harriet (Ross) Colquitt made her home in Macon where, in 1863, she became president of the Soldier's Relief Society. Among the Wesleyan historical souvenirs is an old program of a benefit which this society put on in the Wesleyan auditorium to make money for hospital supplies.

In a Macon paper dated May 8, 1860, is an invitation to all Wesleyan alumnae to meet on July 17 of that year. Bishop Pierce is to speak, and literary contributions from the Alumnae are to be read. The notice is



HARRIET (ROSS) COLQUIT BORING

signed by the committee: Harriette Freeman, Mary deGraffenried, and **Harriet M. Colquitt**.

A member of the class of 1857, Loula (Kendall Rogers, said: "This occasion created a sensation. It was held in Ralston Hall in Macon, and arrangements were all superintended by Harriet (Ross) Colquitt. She invited the participants in the exercises to a tea party in her own home, where we had a rehearsal."

On March 16, 1881, Mrs. Colquitt married the Rev. Dr. Jesse Boring, eloquent minister of the Methodist Church, who was responsible for the founding of the two Georgia Methodist orphanages. She became State President of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. She died in 1887 in Anniston, Alabama, at the age of 64.

(Biographical material and photograph from Frank P. Colquitt, her grandson, of Savannah, who has her diploma and has given to the college a photostatic copy of this.)

## MARY L. ROSS

Mary L. Ross, born in 1823, was the second child of Henry Grimes Ross and his wife, Sarah Bullock, great-aunt of Theodore Roosevelt. Her grandfather was Luke Ross, pioneer settler of Macon and father of an-

other member of the 1840 class, Harriet Ross. Mary was therefore a niece of Harriet, although the girls were almost the same age.

Unfortunately we have been unable to





MARY (ROSS) GRIMES

learn all about Mary after her graduation. She married David L. Grimes and went with him to Texas in the 1840's.

After the death of Mary's mother, her father married a second time, and his only child by this marriage, Anna Amelia, entered Wesleyan in 1866. An orphan at the time, little Amelia was the ward of her half-brother Albert Ross.

Such facts as we have about Mary (Ross)

#### MARGARET A. SPEER

Margaret A. Speer was born in 1822, the daughter of Alexander Speer, who was Secretary of State of South Carolina until he became a Methodist minister in 1833 and moved to Culloden, Ga., and of Elizabeth Middleton, granddaughter of Arthur Middleton, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence and ardent patriot of the Revolution.

She was one of seven children. Her brother, Alexander, became Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia; her brother, Eustace, was a Methodist minister.

She married M. P. Stovall of Augusta in 1842, and later went with him to France where he was U. S. Minister to that country. She had six children, **Frank, Rose, Blanche, Eustace, Alice, and Maude**. Two of her daughters were twins, and were at school in France while their parents were traveling in Europe. When the parents returned to France they had the shock of

Grimes came through Anna Amelia's granddaughter, Eunice Ross Perkins of Macon, from the oral reminiscences of her elders.

"Grandmother was always convinced," says Miss Perkins, "that Mary led an unhappy life because she was an inveterate reader, educated away from 'woman's true sphere'. Mary did not know how to cook or sew! My dear, she spent all her time shut up in her room reading books! One of grandmother's friends spoke of her in my hearing as a 'blue-stocking', but grandmother remonstrated at that. Mary was, after all, a Southern Lady and only Yankees were blue-stockings. 'But of course,' grandmother always added, 'Mary was an educated fool; and being a Ross and stubborn like all of them could not be changed.'"

Mary had one child; of that much we are certain, a daughter **Ellen**. Ellen married in Texas, and there was a daughter, Mary, who married a Georgian, Arthur Wood. The Woods lived in Macon for a short time with their son, Arthur, Jr., and a little daughter, Ellen.

(Biographical material from Hermione (Ross) Walker, of the class of '92; Eunice Ross Perkins, teacher in Lanier High School in Macon; photograph from Blanche (Ellis) Nyhan, A.B., '85).

learning that both girls had died of scarlet fever and were buried. This tragedy, with the subsequent loss of three other children shadowed her later years.

The youngest daughter, Maude, married Mr. Charles P. Pressley of Atlanta and Verdery, S. C., and they have one daughter, Marguerite, now married and living in Europe.

A great niece, Marion (Speer) Heyward, Wesleyan alumna, says of Margaret (Speer) Stovall, "Aunt Margaret was a lady of rare mental culture and literary attainments, an accomplished musician and a charming conversationalist. My mother took me to see her when I was only six years old, and she was reading Horace. I was so fascinated by her charm I have never forgotten her. She was quite an old lady then, and wore a lace cap on her head."

(Biographical information from her great niece, Marion (Speer) Heyward.)

*Mary (Callaway) Jones gave valuable assistance in getting information about several of the graduates.*



# The First College Days of The First College Women

By Catherine Brewer Benson, A. B., 1840

*This account of her college days, written by Catherine (Brewer) Benson, was read at an alumnae reunion in 1888. A copy of the essay, in her own handwriting, is in the Alumnae Historical Collection, and is prized as the only first-hand story of the college days of the 1840 students.*

One of the most memorable days in the history of Macon was the day the matriculation book was opened and 90 girls from Macon and abroad were registered as pupils of "Georgia Female College". College boys were no novelty for Athens, Penfield, Oxford, and Midway of our own state, and Randolph-Macon of Virginia were well represented in our midst. But college girls! The idea that woman could compete with strong-minded man in the pursuit of knowledge had never until that late date taken possession of the public mind. It was enough education for a woman if she could calculate the cost of  $27\frac{3}{4}$  yds. of cloth at  $33\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per yard, or  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of butter at  $18\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per lb. How far wrong they were in their opinions has been fully demonstrated in the number of cultured women who have left these halls. While no one has attained celebrity as advocate for women's rights in legislative or electoral halls, they have exercised the grand prerogative of woman to rule in her own province, Home, and have trained sons and daughters who have gone forth to bless the world as statesmen, ministers of the Gospel and citizens of whom any people might be proud, and old Wesleyan fondly says "These are my jewels".

The next day was devoted to examination and classification of pupils. Rev. Geo. F. Pierce was President and had charge of the moral sciences, which office he held until July, 1840. At that time he resigned, feeling it his higher duty to continue preaching the Gospel. He was so long and so prominently before the people 'twere useless for me to attempt an eulogy. Ever kind and genteel, his memory is lovingly embalmed in the hearts of all who were under his guidance; his life, "bright as a star when only one is shining in the sky", was translated to a higher, holier sphere, Sep-

tember 3rd, 1884, and his "Farewell, a word which makes us linger, yet Farewell," still echoes in our hearts as sadly as when he uttered it in 1840.

Rev. Wm. H. Ellison filled the chair of mathematics. No one knew him but to love him. Allow me to relate a little incident which will show how wisely and effectually he governed: On a rainy afternoon the day members of the junior class, finding it monotonous in the "study room", decided to adjourn to the room of one of the boarders to study the lesson. You all know how girls perform that duty when at least a dozen are present. Upon entering the room we saw the stems of a half dozen clay pipes in the warm ashes in the fire place.

"What are they for?" we asked.

"We are going to curl our front hair"—true to woman's nature, a desire for personal improvement, we decided to have our hair curled also. Time sped rapidly and ere we were aware, the bell summoned us to our recitation in Euclid. We marched into the recitation room feeling that to be seen was to be admired. A few questions were asked and correctly answered. "Miss Martha, please take prop. 47"—a peep into the book revealed the figure, but alas! the demonstration was wanting. "The next young lady will please go to the board."

"Mr. Ellison, please excuse me, I am not prepared."

"The next."

"I don't know the lesson, Mr. Ellison."

This was too much for his patience—quietly folding the book he said, with a voice full of tenderness, "Young ladies, had you devoted the hour to study instead of making cork screws you would have found it more profitable. Take the lesson for tomorrow—class is dismissed."

What a crushing blow to our pretty curls!



The lesson was salutary, lasting, and ever afterward when we reached "Pons assinorum", conic sections of logarithms, we passed safely over, leaving our cork screws slumbering in their ashes until by a process of evolution they have risen with the present classes as well-developed bangs.

In 1840 he assumed the Presidency of the college and continued until 1851. Last year, 1887, he left the academies of earth and entered the University of the Universe with the All-Wise as his teacher. He now sees clearly problems seen but in outline here and says with confidence and pleasure unknown in this preparatory school "*Quod erat demonstrandum*."

Rev. Thomas B. Slade, of precious memory, was our teacher in Natural Sciences and Botany. When the call was made for a botanical walk, we cheerfully responded and were never more happy than when seated around him on the bank of the Ocmulgee, analyzing the flowers we had gathered while passing through the woods which is now "Beautiful Rose Hill", the foot of Central Avenue, being our favorite resting place. As he led us through Nature up to "Nature's God" we loved to linger there, and often felt how sweet 'twould be, could we at last lie there beside its low, soft murmurings. Two of that happy number are resting there, one in tender womanhood—Mrs. Griswold<sup>1</sup>—one in more advanced years—Mrs. David Blount<sup>2</sup>. He, too, has crossed the Crystal River to where the fields are ever green and flowers bloom in perpetual beauty.

Adolphus Maussanet, our teacher in languages, was a man of sterling merit and few words, unless the recitation in French was unusually good, then his gratification knew no bounds. It required my every effort to master the plain English and if ever he wrote "tres bon" at the close of

my exercises I knew it was merited. He returned to vine-clad France and died where "*Dans l'espoir reposez-vous*".

The rules governing the pupils were very strict, but all did not extend to the "day scholars", for we were allowed to see the "boys" once a week. One of our worthy trustees, Henry L. Jewett, was then on the market and he can tell you of the evening allowed us, for on that particular one his brother, George, always knew where to find him—if he does not recognize this picture, I will not betray him. All were required to dress very plainly, eight yards of any material being sufficient for a dress. After our graduation dresses were made we were startled by the information that "Julia Heard's dress has come and it is so fine, and has two flounces on the skirt and is trimmed with lace and ribbon!" It was too late on our part to make changes, so we made a virtue of necessity and bore it quietly. We saw, we admired the fine dress but felt no envy for when that left us, our beloved classmate would go with it, to her happy home on the Gulf. Do I hear some of the present class exclaim "How could you dress so plainly? You would never catch me on the stage in so plain a dress." The answer is simply this, our mothers made our dresses and we knew they were just as they should be.

Our examinations were public and oral, we were at the mercy of a strict examining committee. We had this advantage, however, we did not see a half dozen reporters sitting with pencils ready to chronicle and publish to the world our failures. Young ladies, be thankful that the lines have fallen to you in more pleasant places. You ask, was it not embarrassing? Indeed it was, to be on the stage with such persons as Longstreet, Means, Pierce, Andrew and many others was no slight affair. Hon. C.

1. This reference is, of course, to her classmate, Ann E. (Hardeman) Griswold, who died in 1855, aged 32. (See page 11).

2. This was another classmate, Martha Henrietta Pitts of Clinton, Ga., of whom Miss Annie B. Anderson of Macon sends this information: "Martha Henrietta Pitts was the oldest child of my grandparents, Mary D. Moore and John Pitts. Her mother died in 1840, and I suppose the responsibility of the home rested on her shoulders and she was unable to graduate. In 1841 she married David Emanuel Blount. Her only child, Frances, graduated from Wesleyan in 1864 with first honor and read both the Salutatory and the Valedictory. Fannie married James H. Campbell and had two children, Emma Lee, who died, and Maude, who also graduated at Wesleyan in 1887, and was a Philomathean. Maude married Franklin Keen and has been living in Berkeley, California."

(Editorial Note: In the Wesleyan Historical collection there is a dainty blue silk shoe worn by Fannie (Blount) Campbell and given by Maude (Campbell) Keen. We have also the programs of commencement in '64 when Fannie Blount read both Salutatory and Valedictory, and in '87 when Maude Campbell read an essay on "The Queen's Jubilee".)



J. McDonald, Governor of Georgia, was also present, and was the only active executive ever present until our honored governor of this day. I remember the class was being examined in Chemistry, subject, Caloric. Judge Longstreet, President of Emory, astounded us by asking, "Is there any light without heat?"—that was not a part of our program and we were plunged into such mental darkness we did not know there was any kind of light, much more light without heat. He saw our dilemma and kindly came to the rescue, after which we were prepared for any and all questions propounded. Honors were not given for a number of years. "Excelsior" was our motto and we asked no higher honor than to see "Distinguished" written on our monthly reports and to feel that we were in the full discharge of duty.

A few days before we graduated one of the class exclaimed, "Girls, what do you think! those Randolph-Macon boys will be here, and they will just criticize us till we will be so scared we won't know a word." True enough, on the morning of July 16th, as we walked on the stage, directly in front of us sat, with all due respect to

their present honorable position, "Dave Clopton",<sup>3</sup> "Bob Lanier", "Fop Dowell", "Ben Harrison", "Jim Fort". But their august presence did not in the least intimidate us, for, if they were "college boys", we were college girls, the first in the world and as good as anybody.

Young ladies of the present class, the past 50 years with its burdens of joys and sorrows has quickly passed as a dream that is told. The succeeding 50, to you seems an interminable length of time. As you go forth remember "Into each life some rain must fall", keep in view, "behind the cloud, the sun is still shining". Demands will be made upon you that have not been made upon us. Your training, if true to it, will amply qualify you to meet those demands. No wiser blessing could I make for you than that you may be true to every God-appointed work. In conclusion, should any one of you live to participate in the Centennial anniversary your thoughts will naturally revert to this happy occasion. Then will you think of this friend, who once welcomed it, too, and forgot all her griefs to be happy with you.

3. Dave Clopton had a sister in the first class, Sarah V. Clopton. Bob Lanier, his friend and classmate at Randolph-Macon College, later became the father of the poet, Sidney Lanier, whose middle name was Clopton in honor of this classmate.

## Among The First Wesleyan Students

In the list of the first Wesleyan students is the name of Isabella M. C. Hamilton, daughter of Col. Everard Hamilton and Mary Hazzard Hamilton. Col. Hamilton was Secretary of the State under Governors Troup and Early, and, as appears on page 5, was treasurer of the college Board of Trustees.

Isabella Hamilton married E. H. Blackshear of Laurens County in 1844. While a college girl she roomed with Matilda Moore (see page 5), and it was through her son, Thomas J. Blackshear of Dublin, that we obtained the first information about Matilda Moore.

Mr. Blackshear is in his 84th year, and

is the only son of Isabella (Hamilton) Blackshear living today. Another son, D. S. Blackshear of Alma, Ga., died in April in his 93rd year.

Mr. Thomas J. Blackshear's wife was a Wesleyan graduate of the class of 1884. She was Eva Berta Stanley, and the family lent to Wesleyan for display in the Historical Exhibit in 1936 her composition book kept during her student days. She was married in 1889 and died in October 24, 1899. Her four children are: Dr. Thomas J. Blackshear, Jr., Wilson, N. C.; Wilhelmina (Mrs. S. M. Kellam, Dublin, Ga.); Paul David Blackshear, Pineville, W. Va.; and Eva (Mrs. Jesse Ellis Graham), Macon, Ga.



## In The Hundredth Anniversary Class

Among the 1940 graduates is a great grand-niece of two members of the 1840 class. Margaret Adams' great grand-aunts were: Sarah (Holt) Ward and Martha (Heard) Beall.

### Daughters, Granddaughters, Great Grand-daughters

**Margaret Adams** is a great granddaughter of Indiana (Solomon) Holt, A.B., '51. She is a great great granddaughter of Peter Solomon, one of the early trustees of Wesleyan.

**Beth Belser's** grandmother was Carrie (Gilmer) Belser, A.B., '74.

**Alice Burden Domingos'** grandmother is Minnie (Bass) Burden, A.B., '74. Her mother is Alice (Burden Domingos, A.B., '08, and her great grandfather was Dr. William Capers Bass, loved president of the college for many years. Her paternal grandmother was Alice (McKenzie) Domingos of the class of '69.

**Elizabeth Glass,** Conservatory, is the daughter of Elizabeth (Hudson) Glass, A.B., 1918.

**Jessie Munroe Jones** is the granddaughter of Jessie (Munroe) Dickey, A.B., '87, in whose honor Bishop James E. Dickey gave to Wesleyan a library fund for the purchase of books on English literature. She is the daughter of Annie (Dickey) Jones, A.B., '13, and of the Rev. H. H. Jones, Wesleyan trustee. Her paternal grandmother was Ida (Rogers) Jones, of the class of 1879.

**Gene Launius** is the daughter of Ruth (Radford) Launius, of the class of 1914.

**Vivian Parker,** Conservatory, is the daughter

of Vivian (Lee) Parker, A.B., '12, and the niece and foster daughter of Ves Parker, A.B., '12, who had charge of Vivian and her sister, June, since the death of their mother in 1920. Ves was at Wesleyan in April when Vivian gave her brilliant piano recital. She will receive the B.M. degree in piano.

**Alice Price** is a great granddaughter of Nan (Paris) Hill, A.B., 1841, whose diploma was given to the Wesleyan Collection by Alice's great aunt, Myrta Hill, of the class of '79; and the granddaughter of Carrie (Hill) Price, A.B., '77, whose diploma and graduation composition Alice gave to Wesleyan when she entered.

**Martha Ramsey,** Conservatory, is the daughter of Della (Glausier) Ramsey of the class of 1915.

**Catie Ridley's** grandmother was Mattie (Pritchett) Cheatham of the class of 1876. In the Alumnae Office hangs an oil painting of Catie's great aunt, Anne Drucilla (Hutchings) Catchings, A.B., 1850, given to Wesleyan by the family when Catie entered Wesleyan.

**Saralyn Sammons** is the daughter of Margaret (Greer) Sammons, of the class of 1918.

**Marjorie Standifer** is the daughter of Reba (Moore) Standifer, of the class of 1912, and is the second of Reba's daughters to graduate at Wesleyan.

**Ida Stephens** is the third daughter of Lucy (Evans) Stephens, A.B., '98, to graduate at Wesleyan. She is the great grand-niece of Alexander H. Stephens, whose speech in defense of woman's education in the Georgia Legislature in 1836 was influential in obtaining Wesleyan's charter.



# Nominee For Alumnae Trustee

## Mary Park Polhill

*The Executive Committee of the Alumnae Association offers the name of Mary (Park) Polhill, A.B. 1901, as Alumnae Trustee to succeed Ruth (Houser) Garrett whose three-year term of office is concluded this year.*

By Lucille (Bryant) Johnson, 1927

It has been said that four attributes of a great woman are sympathy, sincerity, simplicity and serenity. Mary (Park) Polhill, nominee for alumnae trustee, embodies these characteristics. Marked by charm, attainment, and service, her life is indeed a reflection of beauty.

Born and reared in LaGrange, Mrs. Polhill is of the well known Park family, members of which have rendered distinct service to the state in educational and professional capacities.

Mrs. Polhill was graduated from LaGrange College; later attending Wesleyan where she received an A.B. degree in 1901. While there she was a member of the Phi Mu sorority.

She taught several years in the public schools of the state. On July 26, 1905, she was married to Thomas G. Polhill of Hawkinsville, a graduate of Mercer University, member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity, prominent educator and a past president of the Georgia Educational Association.

Mrs. Polhill has served as regent of the LaGrange chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and as president of the LaGrange chapter of United Daughters of the Confederacy. During her term of office in the latter organization, her chapter won the state banner for general excellence.

She is an active member of the LaGrange Woman's Club and will soon complete her twenty-sixth year as treasurer of the Woman's Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church of LaGrange. For many years she has taught classes of college girls in the local church school.

Mrs. Polhill organized and for a long term was president of the LaGrange Wesleyan alumni club. In 1924 she was selected to represent Troup county in the Greater Wesleyan campaign when the program was launched to build Wesleyan at Rivoli.

She was appointed alumnae director for the LaGrange district in the recent Repurchase Wesleyan campaign, rendering loyal and effective service in raising funds to aid in saving Wesleyan in an hour of crisis.

This nominee is a superb example of Wesleyan's highest ideals. As she contributes to cultural and religious activities of the state, so does she contribute with intense devotion and loyalty to the progress of Wesleyan.



MARY (PARK) POLHILL



# Atlanta Alumnae Presents Eve Curie

It would not have been surprising if, after the feat of being hostesses for the "Gone With The Wind" premiere last fall, the Atlanta alumnae had rested on their laurels for the remainder of the year. But not so!

By March they were sponsoring a lecture by Eve Curie, daughter of the famous and beloved discoverer of radium. Glenn Memorial chapel was crowded to the doors, and all Atlanta and the surrounding towns talked of nothing else for weeks.

Dr. Sara Branham, Wesleyan alumna and Senior Bacteriologist of the United States Public Health Laboratories in Washington, came to Atlanta to introduce Mlle. Curie. Dr. Kathryn McHale, Director General of the American Association of University Women was also in Atlanta at the time, and the three distinguished women were honor guests at a luncheon given by the Atlanta alumnae at the Druid Hills Club.

Mlle. Eve Curie, famous herself the world over as author, music critic, and as one of the "ten best-dressed women in the world", completely won the heart of every person in her audience on March 25 by her charm and sincerity, by her very slight and engaging French accent, by her delightful personality, and by the moving way in which she told of her famous parents and their great discoveries in science.

Louise Mackay, Wesleyan A.B., '30, society editor of The Atlanta Journal, said of Mlle. Curie in one of her articles:

"Eve Curie is leaving behind her everywhere she lectures on her American tour, a furor of enthusiasm. It travels before her like the wind and blows up a matching anticipation in cities like Atlanta, where she will speak on March 25, sponsored by

the Wesleyan alumnae."

Nor was the anticipation in any way more pleasant than the actual visit of this young woman who has found herself a celebrity in America although, as she laughingly says, "I am the only member of my family who has **not** won the Nobel prize."

She looked as chic and attractive as one would have expected a "best-dressed woman" to look. She spoke as interestingly, as modestly, and as impressively of "Science and the Woman" as one would have expected the author of Marie Curie's biography to speak. And she was as simple and unassuming as one would have known a daughter of the Curies would be.

Eve Curie was met at the airport when she arrived by French Consul Charles Lorrains and Mrs. Lorrains, Annabel Horn, president of the National Alumnae Association; Louise (Davis) Davison, president of the Atlanta Club; Sue (Tanner) McKenzie, co-chairman of the Eve Curie lecture; and Eleanor (McDonald) Elsas, Official hostess for Mlle. Curie, and lecture chairman.

Dr. Goodrich White, vice-president of Emory, son of Mrs. Florrie Cook White and brother of Betty Lou (White) Fisher, presided and introduced Dr. Branham. Nannaline (King) Byrd was hostess to Dr. Branham, Carolyn Malone, '38, was ticket chairman.

Wesleyan was honored by a visit from Dr. Kathryn McHale, General Director of A. A. U. W., and Dr. Sara Branham the day following the Eve Curie lecture. At a tea given at Wesleyan college by Mrs. Dice R. Anderson, members of the Macon Branch of A. A. U. W., officers of the Alumnae Association, and Alumnae trustees of Wesleyan, and classmates of Dr. Branham were present.

## CONSERVATORY HONORED

Wesleyan Conservatory was accorded institutional membership in the National Association of Schools of Music in April, it was announced by Burnett C. Tuthill, Executive Secretary of the Association.



# Clubs

*Margaret (Zattau) Roan, Vice-President in charge of clubs, announces that presidents of Wesleyan Clubs will be entertained at a tea Saturday afternoon at the home of Linda (McKinney) Anderson on Vineville Avenue in Macon immediately following their annual club reports at five o'clock. Every club is urged to have a representative at Commencement, either the president or some member representing her.*

## ATLANTA

Besides sponsoring the Eve Curie lecture (see page 22) the Atlanta alumnae have, as always, kept Wesleyan attractively before the Atlanta public, held interesting meetings regularly, and brought three busloads of high school seniors (representing every high school in the city) to Wesleyan for Dormitory Day.

A new outgrowth of the alumnae activities was the entertainment of Dr. Dice R. Anderson at a luncheon at the Decatur Hotel by a group of Wesleyan alumnae husbands! Judge J. C. Davis, husband of Mary Lou (Martin) Davis was host and originator of the idea.

Louise (Davis) Davison, president of the Atlanta Alumnae Club, asks that as a matter of record, the Alumnae Magazine announce that Irene (Sewell) Hobby was her co-chairman for the "Gone With The Wind" premiere at Atlanta, for which the Wesleyan club served as hostesses.

## AUGUSTA

In late March the Augusta Wesleyan Club entertained seventy high school and junior college girls. Elaine Goodson, president of the club, gives this account of the tea for these girls:

"The girls were charming, and looked like real Wesleyannes. We alumnae had a grand time with them. They seemed so enthusiastic about Dormitory Day, and so far about 35 Tubman High girls have signed up to go on a special coach to Macon that day. Some of the Junior College girls are going too.

"Our color scheme for the tea was, of course, lavender and purple. On the tea table we had a gorgeous arrangement of iris and pansies, flanked by lavender candles. Our plates were paper ones of lavender and purple. Then our napkins were initialed with a purple "W". Our prize decorations were the nosegays we gave each

girl. They had lace paper doilies edged in lavender around them, and the flowers were deep purple pansies tied with lavender ribbon. They were quite effective. Anne (Griffin) Gatewood, Mary Helen Walker and I had fun water-coloring the doilies and gossiping. Purple and lavender hydrangeas and azaleas were used as further house decorations. My home was truly a Wesleyan reception parlor.

"Since this was our first venture of this sort, we honestly feel we're making some headway because of the good response!"

## CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

Beatrice Chandler, Wesleyan alumna and teacher in the Chattanooga High School, brought a group of her students to Wesleyan for Dormitory Day this year.

Lola Leete (Parker) Kibler is president of the Chattanooga Wesleyan Club.

## COLUMBUS

The Columbus Wesleyan Club, with Woodie (Schley) Campbell as president, is the same busy, enthusiastic club it has always been, always doing something for the college.

In March the annual evening meeting of the club was held at the home of Minnie (Smith) Ziegler. Frances (Callahan) Belk and Vera Courson arranged the program, which included a skit, "Midnight Fantasy" presented by Sara Ansley Bunting and Barbara Herndon, directed by Miss Chlotilde Hair. Carol Simmons played a group of violin numbers, and Elizabeth (Joyner) Rainey sang, accompanied by Mrs. Walter Byrd.

The club sponsored a bridge benefit on March 27 to make money for their Wesleyan scholarship fund, the Anna Merritt Munro Scholarship.

In March also the club entertained the high school senior girls and their mothers with a tea at which Dr. and Mrs. Samuel



L. Akers of Wesleyan were honor guests. Dr. Akers spoke to the girls about Wesleyan immediately before the social hour.

On Dormitory Day the Columbus alumnae brought a group of prospective students to Wesleyan.

Excellent publicity, under the direction of Minnie (Smith) Ziegler, chairman, appears frequently in the Columbus papers.

### DUBLIN

The latest activity of the Dublin Club, with Annie (Simons) Smith as president, was the entertainment of a large group of high school seniors at a lovely tea. Dr. G. W. Gignilliat of the Wesleyan faculty was honor guest and speaker of the occasion.

A group of Dublin girls, among them Annie (Simons) Smith's attractive younger daughter, Dorothy, were at the college for Dormitory Day.

### ELBERTON

Esther (Pierce) Maxwell, president of the Elberton Wesleyan Club, brought a car full of high school seniors to Wesleyan on Dormitory Day in April.

### JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The Jacksonville Club sponsored a tea for high school seniors at the home of Dorothy (Brogdon) Tart in March, inviting as honor guests the Wesleyan students at home for spring holidays.

Gladys Leavitt was in charge of the program, Minnie (Tyler) Brelsford of decorations, Elizabeth Mount, invitations.

Annette (White) King, Beulah (McMath) White, and Dorothy (Redwine) Black poured tea.

### LAGRANGE

The LaGrange Alumnae Club, with Nell (Eley) Collier as president, entertained the high school seniors in March with a tea. Dr. Joseph M. Almand of the Wesleyan faculty was invited by the club to be present at the tea and to speak to the high school girls immediately before the social hour.

### MACON

The Macon Alumnae Club, with Linda

(Anderson) Lane as president, has put all its energies this year into raising its pledge of \$1,000 for the Wesleyan Campaign.

The club as a whole sponsored a Style Show in the fall, and since that time the six groups of the club have been working individually on raising their share of the pledge, some alumnae selling vanilla, some holding rummage sales, some working in other ways to make money.

The club expects to report the entire amount raised by Commencement.

The Macon Club brought 100 high school senior girls to Wesleyan for dinner and a special program one evening this spring.

### MILLEDGEVILLE

Margaret (Zattau) Roan, vice-president in charge of clubs, went to Milledgeville on March 2 to meet with the Wesleyan Club there.

Mary (Rudisill) Trippe has found it necessary to resign as president of the club because of the care of her little son, born in February. Mary Louise (Foster) Swearingen accepted the presidency for the rest of the year.

On Dormitory Day a group of high school girls came to Wesleyan from Milledgeville, brought over by an alumna.

### NEWNAN

The Newnan Club, with Loula (Evans) Jones as president, has worked on the campaign enthusiastically and most effectively. Mrs. Jones herself has added to the club's campaign contribution through the sale of dozens of Wesleyan plates and bottles of vanilla. Something over \$200 has been turned in from the club recently.

Loula (Evans) Jones has made several trips to the college in connection with her Wesleyan club work, and has continued to sell Wesleyan china even while on a vacation to Florida!

### OXFORD-COVINGTON

An Oxford-Covington Wesleyan Club, with Mary (Banks) Morcock as president, was organized on March 23 under the guidance of Margaret (Zattau) Roan.

The meeting was held at Mary (Banks) Morcock's home, and the group was most



enthusiastic. Plans were made for bringing high school seniors to the college for Dormitory Day. The club planned to meet twice a year.

### SAVANNAH

A project of the Savannah Club, with Mildred (Shuptrine) Chance as president, was the radio program put on by the club in March. Members of the club wrote a skit, "Wesleyan During Gone With the Wind Days", and those taking the radio parts were: Mary (Fagan) Torrance, Guill (Montfort) Jackson, and Mildred (Shuptrine) Chance. The Alma Mater was sung at the beginning of the program, and "Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair" at the close by Julia (Heidt) Floyd, accompanied on the piano by Doris (Battle) Jones.

### ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The St. Petersburg Alumnae Club holds monthly luncheon meetings, notices of which come in to the Alumnae Office from St. Petersburg newspapers.

In February the club had as its guests of honor at a luncheon Mary (Nicholson) Ainsworth, Willie (Erminger) Mallary, and Jennie Loyall. Lois (Hall) Kent was president of the club at the time.

At a recent meeting Elizabeth (Coates) James has been elected to succeed Lois (Hall) Kent.

### TAMPA, FLORIDA

The Wesleyan alumnae of Tampa, Florida, with Elva (Kensinger) McWilliams as president of the club, gave a silver tea for the benefit of the campaign in March, at the home of Maidee (Smith) Ray. The club has also sponsored a Spanish supper earlier in the year.

### TIFTON

The Tifton Club, under Marian (Padrick) Woodard, has done an excellent job on the Wesleyan campaign. Three times they have sent in checks for the campaign, proceeds from rummage sales put on by the club, \$230 in all. The members have worked faithfully with the pastor of the church in bringing the college before Methodists of the community, too, and have seen that the Tifton paper carried publicity about Wesleyan.

In April the Tifton Club, with Lillian (Touchtone) Jones in charge of high school relations, entertained the high school seniors with a tea at which a group of Wesleyan faculty members were honor guests.

# THE WESLEYAN ALUMNAE

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION OF WESLEYAN COLLEGE  
MACON, GEORGIA

NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST

Subscription Price, \$1.00 per year

Entered as second-class matter February 12, 1925, at the Post Office at Macon, Georgia  
under the Act of March 3, 1879

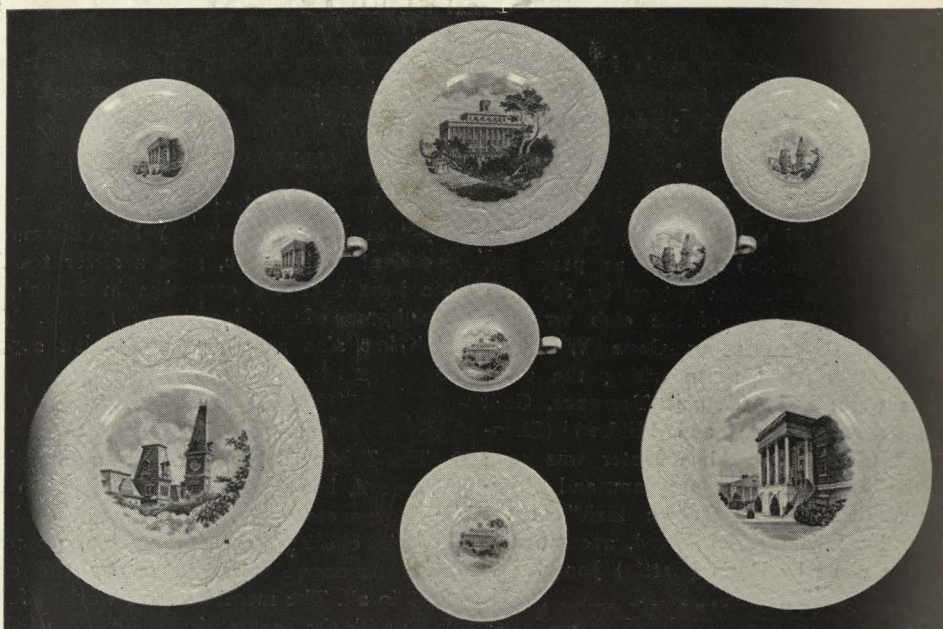
Executive Secretary:  
Jennie Loyall

Vol. XVI, No. 2, MAY

Editor:  
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